



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



April 19, 2005

Honorable Jon Porter
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and
Agency Organization
Committee on Government Reform
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your April 12, 2005, letter concerning the availability of three U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) employees to appear before the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Agency Organization with regard to the Yucca Mountain Project.

Your letter states that Interior has refused to cooperate with your investigation. This is an inaccurate characterization of our interaction with the Subcommittee and its staff. On March 29, 2005, the Department provided a complete set of the unredacted e-mails to you, as you requested. In addition, we are searching for further documents responsive to your latest document request of April 7, 2005, and will provide any responsive documents when our search is complete.

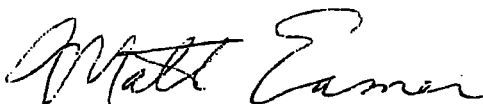
With regard to your request that we make available the three USGS employees you identified to testify before your Subcommittee, the Department reiterates the position it took in its April 8, 2005, response. We believe it is inappropriate for the Department to require these employees to appear before you while they are the subject of an active investigation by three independent law enforcement entities.

We have spoken to the Department of Justice (DOJ) about this matter. Our position is consistent with DOJ's in this regard. DOJ representatives told your staff that DOJ would not object to these employees appearing. We noted this in our April 8, 2005, response when we recognized the power and prerogative of your Subcommittee to call these individuals directly to testify before you.

Honorable Jon Porter

If you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me at 202-208-7693.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Eames". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matt" and last name "Eames" clearly distinguishable.

Matt Eames
Director, Office of Congressional
And Legislative Affairs

Copy to
Honorable Danny Davis, Ranking Minority Member